IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1-21 and 35-54 without prejudice. Rewrite other claims as indicated below.

A3

23. The method of claim 22 wherein said half-tone diffraction pattern of dithered pixels comprises an array of pixels, each pixel of a clear or opaque type, said clear and opaque pixels for respectively passing and blocking incident light, wherein the number, size, and type of the pixels are chosen in accordance with:

        (a) the wavelength of light used to illuminate the photomask, and

        (b) the size and shape of the features of the photomask, for generating a continuous illumination intensity pattern on the photomask with illumination intensity at any location controlled by the half-tone dithered image.

26. The method of claim 24 wherein the intensity of each subpixel is defined by a recursion relationship where:

$$D^n = \begin{vmatrix} 4D^{n/2} + D_{00}^2 U^{n/2} & 4D^{n/2} + D_{01}^2 U^{n/2} \\ 4D^{n/2} + D_{10}^2 U^{n/2} & 4D^{n/2} + D_{11}^2 U^{n/2} \end{vmatrix}$$

where:

$$U^n = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ 1 & & & \\ \cdot & & & \\ \cdot & & & \\ \cdot & & & \\ 1 & & & \end{vmatrix}$$

Cancel claim 29.